

## LITERARY ITEMS.

Mr. T. B. Carpenter's "Six Months at the White House" will be published by Hurd & Houghton early in May. It will be remembered that while Mr. Carpenter was painting his picture of "the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before the Cabinet," he was the guest of Mr. Lincoln at the White House and enjoyed constant intercourse with the President as well as the various members of the Cabinet. The sketches which he has from time to time published in the newspapers prove that he made diligent use of the opportunities then afforded him, and his book is looked for with interest.

Mr. James Miller has in press "What the Moon Saw," by Hans Christian Andersen, with 50 illustrations by the Dalziel Brothers, "Lizzie Linton, and other stories," illustrated, and "A New Guide to the Hudson River," and "Guide to the Central Park," each with illustrations by T. Addison Richards.

M. Dooldy announces a reprint of a "History of the Gypsies, with specimens of the Gypsy Language," by Walter Simpson, with preface, introduction and notes, and a disquisition on the past, present and future of Gypsies, by James Simon.

Lawrence Kehoe, No. 145 Nassau-st., will publish in four days an edition in blue and gold of Aubrey De Vere's "May Carols, and Hymns and Poems."

The first volume of Mr. A. W. Thayer's long-expected "Life of Beethoven," upon which the author has been engaged for 15 years, is announced for publication in Berlin.

Authorship seems at present to be the fashionable amusement at the Courts of Europe. Queen Victoria is said to have been for some time employed upon a volume of essays. The Crown Prince of Prussia is writing a history of the Electoral Prince of Brandenburg. The ex-King of Greece is translating the Iliad, and his father, Louis, the ex-King of Bavaria, is at Nice giving the finishing touches to a new volume of poems. King of Saxony ("Philistines") has just published the third and last volume of his German translation of the Divine Comedy. Oskar Pachta is writing the Life of Alexander the Great.

The well-known London publisher, Mr. Henry Bohm, will shortly retire from business. He will be succeeded by Messrs. Bell & Daldy, who are about to issue a literary edition of Washington Irving's works, and a complete collection of the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

A Paris newspaper is issuing a translation of portions of Mr. Barnard's "Bombs of the World." This is a fair reading of one passage: "The oddest part is the lack of Bay Warren, the greatest blacking manufacturer of London; he paints this advertisement on the Pyramids of Egypt: 'the best London bawse' is that of Bay Warren." As everybody knows, and as Barnard says, the phrase, it is, "Bay Warren's blacking, the best in London."

"The London Athenaeum," in a review of "Wheeler's Dictionary of Noted Names of Fiction," mentions the following particulars respecting the descendants of Robert Patterson, the original of Scott's "Old Mortality," which will no doubt be of great interest to our readers: "Old Patterson, whose Son saw reviving the inscriptions on the tombs of the Covenanters, went to America, and became the grandfather of a Patterson who widow married the Marquis Wellesley. The sisters of that Mrs. Patterson married the Duke of Leeds and Lord Stafford. The direct blood of Old Mortality went in another and remarkable direction. His granddaughter, Miss Patterson, was the first wife of Jerome Bonaparte. The marriage was never legally annulled, and a son, who sprang from it, the great-grandson of Old Mortality, is now on the staff of his cousin, the Emperor of the French."

A Memoir and Selection from the Letters of James Ewing, LL.D., sometime Lord-Provost of Glasgow, and Member of Parliament for that city, has lately been published in Scotland. In one of his letters from Rome, Mr. Ewing makes an extraordinary blunder, which we hope is not a fair specimen of the literary culture of Glasgow LL.D.'s and members of Parliament. The Church of "San Onofrio" (sic) he says, is "chiefly known as the burial-place of the great poet Tasso, where I marked the simple but sufficient epitaph, 'Tertius Tassi Ossa'—the bones of Torquato Tasso. Nothing more is necessary for the author of Dante, which probably in Italy reads who can read it."

Charles Scribner & Co. have nearly ready for publication a "Life of Benjamin Silliman, M. D., LL. D., late Professor of Chemistry, Geology, and Mineralogy in Yale College," by Professor George P. Fisher; "Patriotic Eloquence" for the use of schools, by the late Mrs. C. M. Kirkland; and the Rev. John Marsh's "Temperance Recollections, Labors, Defeats, and Triumphs."

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